

(a reducing agent to render at least one of the additional [a] metal values insoluble *New*
in the digestion mixture; and

a carbon source;

C1 (for a period of time sufficient to solubilize the metal values to be [being] recovered and render at
least one of the [one or more] additional metal values insoluble in the digestion mixture; *New*

heating the digestion mixture for a period of time sufficient to attain 75-95 °C; and
separating the resulting solution from the remaining solids.

14. (once amended) A process for recovering metal values including tantalum metal values and niobium metal values from a source material comprising tantalum, niobium and uranium metal values, the process comprising:

digesting the source material in a sulfuric acid solution comprising:

C2 sulfuric acid;

a reducing agent; and

an additive comprising carbon;

for a period of time sufficient to solubilize tantalum metal values and niobium metal values and form a digestion mixture comprising an aqueous phase comprising solubilized tantalum metal values and niobium metal values, and a solid phase comprising uranium metal values ;

heating the digestion mixture for a period of time sufficient to attain a temperature of 75-95 °C; and

separating the resulting solution comprising tantalum metal values and niobium metal values from the remaining solids comprising uranium metal values.

Remarks

Applicant asserts that the foregoing amendment places the claims in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal. The amendments do not raise new issues and do not contain new matter. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendment is respectfully requested.